

OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA



Welcome to the March issue of OUR TOWN

The weather can't decide if it's spring or winter but the Recycling Committee is moving ahead with their Spring Clean Up for the Town and invites everyone to join in! Parks and Recreation and Council on Aging are also doing their share of spring cleaning as they move out of the Caryl Community Center and into their new temporary offices.

This month's edition is packed with news. Some updates include: Dover Greenway (Rail Trail): information about a theatre production coming to Dover; and the upcoming search for the Town's new Library Director.

This month we are starting a new feature highlighting Town staff called "Meet the Team."

If you are part of a town board/committee and would like to submit content for the April issue, please contact Ruth Townsend at aaandrtownsend@yahoo.com

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- Go to the section 'News Flash' (last section on list)
- Click 'I Dover Town News'

VOL. 1, NO. 5, MARCH 2022

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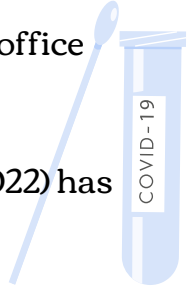
Staff volunteering at the Covid-19 test kit distribution event at the Transfer Station

Board of Selectmen



Free COVID-19 rapid test kits are available in the Board of Health office Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm for Dover residents.

Please note that the expiration date printed on the tests (March, 2022) has been extended to June 30, 2022 by the FDA.



Meet the Team!

Each month we're going to highlight a member of our team, what they do, and what projects they're working on. Our first member is Dover's first Land Use Director



Courtney Starling, AICP, joined Dover in early 2021. This position is responsible for overseeing land use and planning related activities in the Town of Dover. The Land Use Director serves as staff to the Planning Board, and as a liaison between the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and Building Departments. In addition, the Land Use Director is responsible for a broad range of planning initiatives related to long-range planning, grantmaking activities, resiliency & sustainability, communications & public participation, and responsible growth management.

Courtney holds a Master's Degree in Regional Planning and has 15 years of experience working in rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout New England.

When she's not at her desk, you can find her in the gym or outside on the trail.

ASK
ME
ABOUT..



Dover Greenway

The Friends of the Dover Greenway have continued to work on moving this project forward, with the hope of completing the rail trail in Dover for everyone to enjoy. Medfield is working toward completion of converting their segment of the Bay Colony Railroad into a rail trail; here in Dover the Greenway project has not moved so far forward. The MBTA and the Town of Dover are unable to agree to lease terms, and the MBTA is unable to offer the lease to the Friends of the Dover Greenway. The Friends of the Dover Greenway and the Town of Dover administrators have met to discuss options for converting Dover's section of the Bay Colony Railroad to a rail trail. At this time, the Friends of the Dover Greenway are suggesting that the Town of Dover sign the standard lease agreement with the MBTA similar to what Medfield and Needham have done. There is a commitment to revisit this process by year-end and highlight the options for moving toward implementation in 2023.



View of a straight path through trees

Community Center Building Committee

The Community Center project continues to move forward with the next step being to move Town departments out of the building. On March 1 the Council on Aging (COA) and Parks and Recreation (P&R) departments will be in their new temporary office spaces in Dover.

Beginning March 1, the COA will be at the Town House, in the Fireside Room.



Dover Town House, view from Springdale.



View of Fireside Room, from outside in the corridor

The P&R team are moving to the Highway Garage Meeting Room, calling this space home until the new Center is finished.



View of Highway garage from parking lot



View of Highway Garage Meeting room from lobby

In-person programming will continue in the Caryl Community Center for both COA and P&R until the end of March. From April 1st onwards programming for both groups will be held throughout town, including local churches, the Legion, the Dover Town Library, and The Town House.



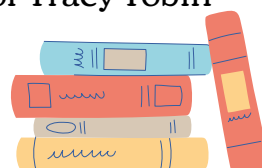
Click for program information



Board of Library Trustees

Cheryl Abdullah, Director of the Dover Town Library, will be retiring on June 30, 2022 after 13 years of dedicated service. The Trustees will begin the process of finding her successor soon. A Search Committee of six people is currently being assembled: two Trustees, a member of the Friends of the Dover Town Library, a Town administrator, a Library staff member, and a representative from the Council on Aging. Applications will be screened by this committee in March. Community feedback forums will take place in April. Updates will be available on the Town and Library websites. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Judy Schulz (polarbearma@yahoo.com) or Tracy Tobin (tracy.tobin@icloud.com), co-chairs of the Search Committee.

— HAPPY —
Retirement



Board of Library Trustees continued

In March, in addition to their regular programming, the Dover Library will also present the following events:



Women Painters through the Centuries

On Monday, March 7, join on Zoom to explore the highlights of twenty-five women painters over the past five centuries, including the works of the court painter to Elizabeth I, the drama of Artemisia Gentileschi, the glamor of Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, the maternal work of Mary Cassatt, and the boldness of Georgia O'Keeffe. You'll gain a better understanding of the tremendous contribution made by women artists over the past five centuries and looking towards the future. Other artists covered include Kara Walker, Frida Kahlo, Helen Frankenthaler, and Judith Leyster. [Click HERE to register](#)

Virtual Author Talk: Katherine Stewart on her book "The Power Worshippers"

On Wednesday March 23rd at 7pm, you can attend a Virtual Author Talk on Zoom with Katherine Stewart on her book "The Power Worshippers: Inside The Dangerous Rise Of Religious Nationalism. Author Katherine Stewart was recently recognized as one of Massachusetts's must-read authors of the year. This is presented in collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library and other Massachusetts Libraries. [Click here for more information and to register](#)

For information on the Dover Library's other programs and events [click HERE](#)



Recycling Committee

March Recyclable of the Month—textiles

These include clothing, blankets, gloves, jackets, hats, drapes, bedding, rugs, sneakers, backpacks, etc. As long as it's dry, it can go into the textiles bins at the Transfer Station. Even single sneakers, gloves or mittens without mates, and ratty old and frayed sweaters are acceptable. These poor-condition textiles get recycled, which keeps them out of landfills.



Spring Cleanup

The Dover Recycling Committee in conjunction with the Highway Department is planning the annual Dover Clean-Up for the whole month of April this year! This community event promotes street and property clean up.



Recycling Committee continued

Spring Cleanup continued

In 2021, 400 town residents participated in this effort. 2022's goal is to once again have 100% of the 159 streets and many parks cleaned-up. All Dover residents are invited to help achieve this goal by signing up for a street that is important to you. Consider a section of our main through-streets where roadside trash is greatest. All local clubs and organizations are encouraged to join in the clean-up. The condition of most bottles and cans makes them unacceptable at recycling centers so it will not be necessary to separate trash from recyclables. The Recycling Committee will supply bags and arrange for street safety signs to be posted. Register [HERE](#).

This event is supported by Dover's Parks & Recreation Commission, Open Space Committee, Conservation Commission, Dover Land Conservation Trust, and the Dover Sherborn High School Down-to-Earth Club. Contact dooverrecycling@gmail.com for any further information or questions.

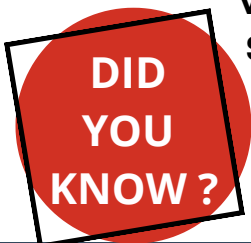
Furniture Collections

Dover Recycling committee will provide furniture collections on Saturday March 19, April 16, and subsequently the third Saturday of every month. See complete recycling calender of events [HERE](#). New Life Furniture Bank of Walpole will be on-site to accept specific items of furniture and household goods for families in need. New Life is a non-profit organization that accepts these items to provide them at no charge to those in need. It does not accept items that need repair. If an item is not suitable for a family member or friend, it is not suitable for donation. Please check their website for acceptable items www.newlifefb.org.

Volunteers are needed to staff the truck for two-hour shifts on those dates.
Sign up [here](#).



In 2021, Dover residents donated over 10 truckloads (18 tons) of items put to good use by over 57 clients (170+people) served by this initiative.



Schools

Beauty and the Beast comes to Dover

Dover-Sherborn High School is excited to bring the enchanted world of Disney's Beauty and the Beast to the stage in Mudge Auditorium. Singing teapots and candlesticks, an evil spell, and an unlikely love story are all part of the magic of this modern Broadway classic. This "tale as old as time" is filled with spectacular song and dance routines, elaborate make-up techniques, eye-catching costumes, and a magical set.

It has been three years since the high school students have performed a musical in Mudge Auditorium after Mamma Mia was canceled heading into show week due to the pandemic. The cast, crew, and orchestra of this production, comprising over 60 high school students, are thrilled to be back performing for their community.

Many cast members are not only portraying characters on stage, but also taking on additional roles behind the scenes, creating the complex and technical costumes, choreographing and teaching the dance routines and many other roles that will bring this production to life.

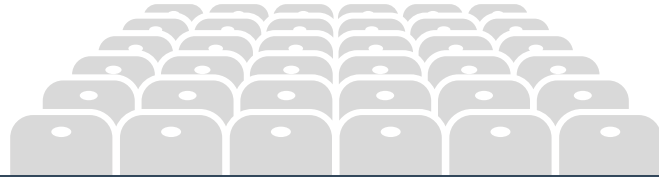


Schools continued



**Emmeline Morgens and Tommy Shea
(in plaster cast) work creating a
supportive shell for the Beast costume**

In addition, there will be an art exhibit in the cafeteria for viewing before the show and during intermission. The Art Show will feature the artwork of students from all four schools in the district - DS High School, DS Middle School, Pine Hill, and Chickering. "Be Our Guest" and experience the enchantment of Disney's Beauty and the Beast at Mudge Auditorium! Show dates are Thursday, March 17th at 6:30pm, Friday, March 18th at 7:00pm, a Saturday matinee on March 19th at 1:00pm, and an evening performance at 7:00pm. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased www.ticketstage.com or at the door.



March Quick Links



Town Caucus will be held on Monday, March 7, at 7:30 PM - Click Learn More for details

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Planning Board - Civic Space Collaborative will be presenting the key findings of the Village Center Visioning Process survey on 3/28. Survey deadline 3/14

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Warrant Committee Open Hearing will take place on Monday March 14

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The Town is hiring! Check out the current vacancies

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2022 Annual Town Meeting will be held Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Check out the Town Meeting page for updates

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**Want to contribute to next month's newsletter?
Please submit content to Ruth at aandrtownsend@yahoo.com
by March 15th.**



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